

# HOLOGRAPHIC PRIVACY FILTER FOR DISPLAY DEVICES

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/255,554, filed December 14, 2000.

[01] **Background and Summary of the Invention:**

[02] The instant invention relates to privacy filters for electronic display devices, such as personal digital assistants (PDA's) and laptops, and more particularly to a privacy filter that makes use of holographic images to block the view of unwanted onlookers, but yet allow the operator to have an unobstructed view of the display screen.

[03] Privacy filters for electronic display devices are well known in the electronic and optical arts. The growing use of electronic devices in public areas has driven a need in the industry to try to develop products which will protect private and confidential information from the view of unwanted onlookers, but yet allow the intended viewer, i.e. the user, to have a substantially unrestricted view of the display.

[04] One important area of use for privacy filters is in the travel sector. Business travelers on planes and trains, etc., have an inherent need to be able to work while traveling. For the most part, almost every business traveler has a laptop or PDA device that when in use, will be generally visible to anyone sitting next to them, or somewhere behind them. The ever improving clarity and brightness of the displays of such devices makes the problem even worse as persons sitting a substantial distance away can view the substance of whatever is displayed on the device.

[05] Another popular venue of use for privacy filters is in the medical field where confidential patient information is displayed on hospital computer screens. It is important that doctors, hospitals and other medical facilities make use of some type of privacy device on the screens of their computers to insure that other patients and unintended hospital staff cannot see patient information displayed on such computer screens. These types of computers typically have a conventional cathode ray tube (CRT) display, although, the use of Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) screens is growing more popular and

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